

┌ a plurality of connecting members attached to said at least one of a base and an upper member and extending therefrom, each of said connecting members comprising a four-sided metal tube;

cont. a plurality of upwardly extending support members, each of said support members comprising a four-sided metal tube, each of said support members being interconnected with one of said connecting members, each of said support members having a cross-sectional shape which is substantially the same as a cross-sectional shape of said interconnected one of said connecting members;

cont. B' L wherein for each of said support members and said interconnected one of said connecting members, one of said support member and said interconnected one of said connecting members has a reduced end portion of complementary shape to said cross-sectional shape of said support member and said interconnected one of said connecting members, said reduced end portion being inserted into the other of said support member and said interconnected one of said connecting members.--

AA 43 44 45. The system as recited in claim 44, wherein:

each of said connecting members and said upwardly extending support members comprises a rectangular metal tube.--

45 43 46. The system as recited in claim 44, wherein:

each of said connecting members and said upwardly extending support members comprises a square metal tube.--

┌ 47. The system as recited in claim 44, wherein:

said at least one of a base and an upper connecting member comprises a base; each of said connecting members comprises a lower connecting member attached to said base and extending upwardly therefrom.--

Sub 48. The system as recited in claim 44, wherein:

L said at least one of a base and an upper member comprises an upper member; each of said connecting members comprises an upper connecting member attached to and extending downwardly from said upper member.--

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--49. The system as recited in claim 44, wherein:

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said reduced end portion is sized to snugly fit within said other of said support member and said interconnected one of said connecting members.--

Sub 50. A system for framing at least a portion of a structure, said system comprising:
a base;
a plurality of lower connecting members attached to said base and extending therefrom, each of said lower connecting members comprising a four-sided metal tube;
a plurality of upwardly extending support members, each of said support members comprising a four-sided metal tube, each of said support members being interconnected with one of said lower connecting members, each of said support members having a cross-sectional shape which is substantially the same as a cross-sectional shape of said interconnected one of said connecting members;

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wherein for each of said support members and said interconnected one of said lower connecting members, one of said support member and said interconnected one of said lower connecting members has a reduced end portion of complementary shape to said cross-sectional shape of said support member and said interconnected one of said lower connecting members, said reduced end portion being inserted into the other of said support member and said interconnected one of said lower connecting members.--

--51. A system for framing at least a portion of a structure, said system comprising:
at least one of a lower supporting structure and an upper member;

a plurality of connecting members attached to said at least one of a lower supporting structure and an upper member and extending therefrom, each of said connecting members comprising a four-sided metal tube;

a plurality of upwardly extending support members, each of said support members comprising a four-sided metal tube, each of said support members being interconnected with one of said connecting members, each of said support members having a cross-sectional shape which is substantially the same as a cross-sectional shape of said interconnected one of said connecting members;

wherein for each of said support members and said interconnected one of said connecting members, one of said support member and said interconnected one of said connecting members has a reduced end portion of complementary shape to said cross-sectional shape of said support member and said interconnected one of said connecting members

members, said reduced end portion being inserted into the other of said support member and said interconnected one of said connecting members.--

--52. The system as recited in claim 51, wherein:

said at least one of a lower supporting structure and an upper member comprises a lower supporting structure;

said lower supporting structure comprises a base.--

--53. A system for framing at least a portion of a structure having a foundation, said system comprising:

a plurality of ~~exterior~~ wall frames interconnected to one another and extending upwardly from the foundation of the structure, wherein each of said wall frames includes:

a base attached to the foundation of the structure;

a plurality of lower connecting members attached to said base and extending upwardly therefrom, each of said lower connecting members comprising a rectangular metal tube;

a plurality of upwardly extending support members, each of said support members comprising a rectangular metal tube, each of said support members being interconnected with one of said lower connecting members, each of said support members having a cross-sectional shape which is substantially the same as a cross-sectional shape of said interconnected one of said lower connecting members, wherein for each of said support members and said interconnected one of said lower connecting members, one of said support member and said interconnected one of said lower connecting members has a reduced end portion of complementary shape to said cross-sectional shape of said support member and said interconnected one of said lower connecting members, said reduced end portion being inserted into the other of said support member and said interconnected one of said lower connecting members;

an upper member;

a plurality of upper connecting members attached to said upper member and extending downwardly therefrom, each of said upper connecting members comprising a rectangular metal tube, each of said upper connecting members being aligned with one of said lower connecting members, each of said upwardly extending support members being interconnected with one of said upper connecting members, said cross-sectional shape of

each of said support members being substantially the same as a cross-sectional shape of said interconnected one of said upper connecting members, wherein for each of said support members and said interconnected one of said upper connecting members, one of said support member and said interconnected one of said upper connecting members has a reduced end portion of complementary shape to said cross-sectional shape of said support member and said interconnected one of said upper connecting members, said reduced end portion being inserted into the other of said support member and said interconnected one of said upper connecting members.--

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 --54. A system for framing at least a portion of a structure having a foundation, said system comprising:

a plurality of ~~exterior~~ wall frames interconnected to one another and extending ^{able} upwardly from the foundation of the structure, wherein each of said wall frames includes:

a plurality of upwardly extending support members, each of said support members comprising a four-sided metal tube;

an upper member; and

a plurality of upper connecting members attached to said upper member and extending downwardly from said upper member, each of said upper connecting members comprising a four-sided metal tube, each of said upwardly extending support members being interconnected with one of said upper connecting members, wherein for each of said support members and said interconnected one of said upper connecting members, one of said support member and said interconnected one of said upper connecting members has a reduced end portion of complementary shape to a cross-sectional shape of said support member and which is inserted into the other of said support member and said interconnected one of said upper connecting members to snugly fit within.--

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 --55. The system as recited in claim ~~54~~ ⁵² wherein:

each of said upwardly extending support members comprises a four-sided orthogonal metal tube;

each of said upper connecting members comprises a four-sided orthogonal metal

tube.--

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 --56. The system as recited in claim ~~54~~ ⁵² wherein:

each of said upwardly extending support members comprises a rectangular metal tube;

each of said upper connecting members comprises a rectangular metal tube.--

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--57. A system for framing at least a portion of a structure having a foundation, said system comprising:

a plurality of ~~exterior~~^{able} wall frames interconnected to one another and extending upwardly from the foundation of the structure, wherein each of said wall frames includes:

a base attached^{able} to the foundation of the structure;

a plurality of lower connecting members attached to said base and extending upwardly therefrom, each of said lower connecting members comprising a four-sided metal tube;

a plurality of upwardly extending support members, each of said support members comprising a four-sided metal tube, each of said support members being interconnected with one of said lower connecting members, wherein for each of said support members and said interconnected one of said lower connecting members, one of said support member and said interconnected one of said lower connecting members has a reduced end portion of complementary shape to a cross-sectional shape of said support member which is inserted into the other of said support member and said interconnected one of said lower connecting members to snugly fit within.--

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--58. The system as recited in claim 57, wherein:

each of said upwardly extending support members comprises a four-sided orthogonal metal tube;

each of said lower connecting members comprises a four-sided orthogonal metal tube.--

~~57~~
--59. The system as recited in claim 57, wherein:

each of said upwardly extending support members comprises a rectangular metal tube;

each of said lower connecting members comprises a rectangular metal tube.--

Sub 5 --60. A system for framing at least a portion of a building structure, said framing system formed from a plurality of interconnectable four-sided orthogonal metal tubes having substantially identical cross-sectional dimensions that interconnect with each other at their free ends with a free end of one metal tube having a reduced portion along each of its four orthogonal sides relative to a free end portion of a tube to which it connects, said reduced portion snugly and securely fitting within the end portion of the tube to which it connects, wherein said orthogonal metal tubes include vertically extending support members and vertically extending connecting members, wherein one of said support members and connecting members include a reduced end portion relative to the other of said supporting members and connecting members wherein the support members are supported vertically by the connecting members.--

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--61. The system as recited in claim 60, wherein:

said connecting members extend vertically from at least one of a base and an upper member.--

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--62. The system as recited in claim 60, wherein said base is supported in a substantially horizontal direction.--

Sub 5 --63. A system for framing at least a portion of a structure having a foundation, said system comprising:
a plurality of exterior wall frames interconnected to one another and extending upwardly from the foundation of the structure, wherein each of said wall frames includes:
a plurality of interconnectable four-sided orthogonal metal tubes having substantially identical cross-sectional dimensions that interconnect with each other at their free ends with a free end of one metal tube having a reduced end portion along each of its four orthogonal sides relative to the free end portion of a tube to which it connects, said reduced end portion snugly and securely fitting within the end portion of the tube to which it connects.--

--64. A system for framing a structure comprising:
a first base,

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 a first plurality of lower connecting members attached to said first base and extending upwardly therefrom, each of said first plurality of lower connecting members comprising a four-sided metal tube;

a plurality of upwardly extending first side posts, each of said first side posts comprising a four-sided metal tube, each of said first side posts being interconnected with one of said first plurality of lower connecting members;

wherein for each of said first side posts and said interconnected one of said first plurality of lower connecting members, one of said first side post and said interconnected one of said first plurality of lower connecting members has a reduced end portion of complementary shape to a cross-sectional shape of said first side post, said reduced end portion being inserted into the other of said first side post and said interconnected one of said first plurality of lower connecting members.--

--65. The system as recited in claim 64, further comprising:

a second base laterally spaced apart from said first base;

a second plurality of lower connecting members attached to said second base and extending upwardly therefrom, each of said second plurality of lower connecting members comprising a four-sided metal tube, each of said second plurality of lower connecting members being aligned with one of said first plurality of said lower connecting members;

a plurality of upwardly extending second side posts, each of said second side posts comprising a four-sided metal tube, each of said second side posts being interconnected with one of said second plurality of lower connecting members;

wherein for each of said second side posts and said interconnected one of second plurality of lower connecting members, one of said second side post and said interconnected one of said second plurality of lower connecting members has a reduced end portion of complementary shape to a cross-sectional shape of said second side post, said reduced end portion being inserted into the other of said second side post and said interconnected one of said second plurality of lower connecting members.--

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 --66. The system as recited in claim 65, further comprising:

a plurality of bridge members, each of said bridge members extending between and interconnecting one of said first side posts and an aligned one of said second side posts.--

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--67. A system for framing a structure comprising:

a plurality of first side posts, each of said first side posts comprising a four-sided metal tube;

a plurality of second side posts laterally spaced from said first side posts, each of said second side posts comprising a four-sided metal tube and being substantially aligned with one of said first side posts;

a plurality of bridge members, each of said bridge members being interconnected to one of said first side posts and interconnected to an aligned one of said second side posts;

wherein for each of said first side posts and said interconnected one of said bridge members, one of said first side post and said interconnected one of said bridge members has a reduced end portion of complementary shape to a cross-sectional shape of said first side post and a cross-sectional shape of said bridge member, said reduced end portion being inserted into the other of said first side post and said interconnected one of said bridge members;

wherein for each of said second side posts and said interconnected one of said bridge members, one of said second side post and said interconnected one of said bridge members has a reduced end portion of complementary shape to a cross-sectional shape of said second side post and said cross-sectional shape of said interconnected one of said bridge members, said reduced end portion being inserted into the other of said second side post and said interconnected one of said bridge members.--

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--68. A system for framing a structure comprising:

a plurality of first side posts, each of said first side posts comprising a four-sided metal tube;

a plurality of second side posts laterally spaced from said first side posts, each of said second side posts comprising a four-sided metal tube and being substantially aligned with one of said first side posts;

a plurality of laterally extending members, each of said laterally extending members being formed from at least one four-sided metal tube and interconnected to one of said first side posts and interconnected to an aligned one of said second side posts;

wherein for each of said first side posts and said interconnected one of said laterally extending members, one of said first side post and said interconnected one of

said laterally extending members has a reduced end portion of complementary shape to a cross-sectional shape of said first side post and a cross-sectional shape of said laterally extending member, said reduced end portion being inserted into the other of said first side post and said interconnected one of said laterally extending members;

wherein for each of said second side posts and said interconnected one of said laterally extending members, one of said second side post and said interconnected one of said laterally extending members has a reduced end portion of complementary shape to a cross-sectional shape of said second side post and said cross-sectional shape of said interconnected one of said laterally extending members, said reduced end portion being inserted into the other of said second side post and said interconnected one of said laterally extending members.--

69. A system for framing a structure comprising:

a plurality of bridge members, each of said bridge members including a peak and first and second rafters, said peak being interconnected with said first and said second rafters, said peak and said first and second rafters each comprising a four-sided metal tube;

wherein for each of said peaks and said interconnected one of said first rafters, one of said peak and said interconnected one of said first rafters has a reduced end portion of complementary shape to a cross-sectional shape of said peak and a cross-sectional shape of said first rafter, said reduced end portion being inserted into the other of said peak and said interconnected one of said first rafters;

wherein for each ^{of} said peaks and said interconnected one of said second rafters, one of said peak and said interconnected one of said second rafters has a reduced end portion of complementary shape to said cross-sectional shape of said peak and a cross-sectional shape of said second rafter, said reduced end portion being inserted into the other of said peak and said interconnected one of said second rafters.